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Chairman: Mr. Raubenheimer (Vice-Chairman) ..... (South Africa)

Contents

Agenda item 91: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries (*continued*)

(g) Commodities (*continued*)

Agenda item 93: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*)

(d) Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (*continued*)

Agenda item 100: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

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03-65295 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Mr. Raubenheimer (South Africa), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Agenda item 91: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries (*continued*) (A/58/209)

1. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours (A/58/209).

2. *It was so decided.*

(g) Commodities (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on commodities (A/C.2/58/L.38 and L.76)

3. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.76, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.38.

4. **Mr. Bernardini** (Italy) pointed out that the word "developing" had been omitted after the words "commodity-dependent" in paragraph 10 of the draft text.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.76, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

6. **Ms. Spirnak** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution, but wished to draw attention to the fact that the item on commodities was a biennial agenda item. Her delegation had anticipated a short, procedural draft resolution to take note of the report of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Commodity Issues. Unfortunately, some members of the Committee had chosen to use the current session to ask for consideration of a substantive draft resolution on commodities. While her delegation appreciated the fact that the issue was important to many delegations, many other issues that deserved consideration by the Committee would be pushed aside if the Committee did not stick to its agreed programme of work. That would be in nobody's interest and she hoped that more care would be taken in future to honour agreements in that regard.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.38 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 93: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/58/L.37 and L.77)

Draft resolutions on international migration and development (A/C.2/58/L.37 and L.77)

8. **Ms. Cronenberg-Mossberg** (Sweden), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.77), which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.37.

9. **Ms. Kelley** (Director of the Division of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs), presenting an oral statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.77, said, with respect to paragraph 8, that the Secretary-General had requested two additional posts under subprogramme 6 of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 to undertake work in the area of international migration. It was anticipated that the General Assembly would respond favourably to the Secretary-General's proposals in order to facilitate preparation of the report requested in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution. Should the posts be approved, it was estimated that only limited, non-staff resources might be required to assist in preparation of the report, which would be met by use of resources that had been identified in the programme budget proposals for the biennium 2004-2005.

10. With regard to paragraph 9, the Secretariat would consider and report to the General Assembly on the related requirements within the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 2006-2007, which would be subject to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly, at its sixtieth session, on the report on the organizational details of the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly called for in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.77 was adopted.*

12. **Ms. Spirnak** (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to address the possibility of a future conference on migration and to clarify the timing of the agenda item. While her Government was strongly committed to supporting migration as a positive phenomenon, the complex issues of migration and development were most effectively dealt with bilaterally or regionally and should not fall victim to fruitless and polarizing debate. The draft resolution held open the possibility of holding an international conference on migration, which her delegation opposed both on budgetary grounds and out of concern that such a conference would produce a sterile debate that would replicate the divisive discussions that had been held earlier in the year.

13. With regard to the future consideration of the item, her delegation's understanding was that the item was subject to biennial review and would be considered again by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session only on an exceptional, one-time basis to allow the cycle of consideration of the item to coincide with the high-level dialogue at the Assembly's sixty-first session. Discussions at the Assembly's sixtieth session would therefore focus exclusively on the organizational details of the high-level dialogue.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.37 was withdrawn.*

(d) Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (*continued*) (A/58/327)

15. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee take note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards and challenges and constraints to the achievement of the major development goals and objectives adopted by the United Nations during the past decade (A/58/327).

16. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 100: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/58/L.41 and L.78)

17. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.78, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.41.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.78 was adopted.*

19. **Ms. Spirnak** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution, but wished to take issue with several of its features. The draft text dealt with many issues that could be better treated in other forums. Trade issues, for example, were properly the domain of the World Trade Organization, finance issues were best treated by the International Monetary Fund; and development issues belonged with the World Bank and the regional development banks. That was not to say that the United Nations could not touch on those issues, but its treatment of them would never be as complete or as expert as the treatment by institutions specifically created to deal with such issues.

20. The use of the word "asymmetries" in paragraph 4 was unfortunate. While some issues should certainly be dealt with in the current global system, those issues were no different from any of the other issues that had arisen as efforts continued to create a free market that stretched around the globe. Everyone had an interest in factor mobility, the free flow of goods and the construction of effective international response systems for countries affected by external developments. The current challenge, however, was not to talk about those issues in inflammatory terms but to deal with them in the appropriate forums.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.41 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolution on the World Summit on the Information Society (A/C.2/58/L.42)

22. **The Chairman** said that the main sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.42 had withdrawn the draft text from the Committee and had submitted it to the plenary Assembly.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.42 was withdrawn*

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (A/58/3 (Part I), A/58/3 (Part II and Corr.1), A/58/96 and A/58/151)

Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests (A/C.2/58/6)

24. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision, which had been circulated as document A/C.2/58/6:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> *Decides* that support to participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, may be provided from the Trust Fund for travel and daily subsistence allowance from funds designated for that purpose, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/63."

25. *It was so decided.*

Documents submitted under the item

26. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee take note of the following reports: report of the Economic and Social Council as contained in document A/58/3 (Parts I-II) and Part II/Corr.1, namely, chapters I-V, chapter VII, sections B-H, and chapter IX; note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/58/151); and note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the assessment of the results achieved in realizing aims and objectives of the International Year of Ecotourism (A/58/96).

27. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.